

# Fisheries in Yorkshire

February 2014

**Help us protect your fisheries by using our 24hr Freephone Incident Reporting Hotline 0800 80 70 60.**



If you witness a netting operation, fishing method or fish introduction that you think may be illegal, please report it to us on the hotline. Please be prepared to leave your contact details in case we require further information or a statement in order for us to make further enquiries. We are not always able to launch an immediate response but Fisheries Officer Peter Mischenko promises "all good quality information that we receive will be used as intelligence so that we can take action where it is needed."



A call to the hotline reporting dead fish led to a discharge of foam being traced to a garage

from which a cocktail of chemicals was being released into the River Ryburn. Investigating Environment Officer Gail Gray said waste being held illegally at the site had 'the potential to devastate the full spectrum of the River Ryburn's ecosystem, from micro-organisms to fish and to have a long-lasting impact, and it was seen to have affected some fish in a nearby watercourse.' Fines totalling £10,000 and a suspended jail term were handed out among two companies and four individuals.



Outbreaks of disease can occur at any time of the year, but can be particularly common in spring and summer. Reporting dead, dying or diseased fish to our hotline quickly will enable us to help the fishery reduce the losses and recover rapidly. Certain diseases are notifiable and must be reported by law. We investigate all types of disease problem and may need to collect a sample of fish so that our National Fisheries Laboratory can diagnose the problem. Accurate diagnosis will help recovery and prevent other incidents. We work closely to control important fish diseases and provide fishery management advice to prevent problems from reoccurring. These measures help stop disease spreading to other fisheries, preventing serious economic and environmental impacts.

## Working Together

- The Environment Agency is currently looking at how we deliver for people and the environment in the future with the funding available to us. Over the next 12 months, we will be looking at how we can change to ensure we continue to create a better place for present and future generations. We will be looking to improve how we work with communities and individuals and those we regulate. We are looking at reducing our overall size and moving from a three-tier (National, Region, Area) to a two-tier (National, Area) business model. This will help us to maximise the impact of every pound we spend. By making these changes we are confident that we will operate effectively whilst reducing staffing levels.
- Rod licence sales have dropped over recent years and this will impact upon our ability to deliver projects. However, we remain committed to delivering the best for the environment with the resources we have and working with anglers and other partners to improve fisheries.
- [National Fishing Month](#) (organised by the Angling Trades Association) will be taking place from 18 July to 31 August this year.
- The Environment Agency regulates hydropower schemes. Updated guidance for developers is now available on our [website](#), including advice on fish passage and screening requirements.
- Beginning in spring 2014, our web content will be moving to the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. This is to make it simpler, faster and easier for you to access government services and information online. After the move our current Environment Agency website will close but we will be setting up automatic redirections to help you find what you need.

- Fisheries Technical Officer [Andrew Delaney](#) is retiring at the end of March. Hanging up his waders for the last time will mark the end of a 35 year career spent enhancing and protecting Yorkshire's rivers. Andy's passion is the River Esk and its salmon and sea trout populations. Over the years he has devoted countless hours to all manner of activities to benefit the Esk, ranging from partnership working to counter-poaching operations on cold, wet nights. He is a larger-than-life character and his knowledge and commitment will be greatly missed.

## Have your say

- The West Yorkshire Fisheries Forum will be held in association with The Angling Trust on Wednesday 12 March at the Holiday Inn, Wakefield (M1 J40) at 7.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to discuss the issues you care about with the Environment Agency and The Angling Trust. Please email the Angling Trust's [John Cheyne](#) or call him on 07794 234546 to book your place and tell him what you want to talk about on the night.
- Later this year, we will be consulting on proposals for rod licence duties. We will be reviewing some aspects of the licensing system to give better service to rod licence payers, including addressing the number of rods allowed per licence. Please let us know your views when the consultation opens. You can view and respond to Environment Agency consultations [online](#).

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03708 506 506

incident hotline  
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floodline  
0845 988 1188

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Stillwaters



We have stocked the ABLE project's new lake at Heckmondwike with roach, tench, bream and crucian carp. Angling will begin on site in the summer and we will stock more fish next year. This is the final part of our partnership project to create a bespoke fishery for angling participation. Dewsbury Angling Club and Get Hooked on Fishing will be delivering coaching sessions on the site. We also stocked 250 crucians and 250 tench into Carthorpe Pond near Bedale to help the pond recover from a past pollution incident.



Access to Cooper Bridge Pond, Huddersfield has been improved as a result of a partnership project between Mirfield Angling Club, Kirklees Council, Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.



We removed roach from Kirklees Council's Wilton Park Lake, Batley, in order to reduce overcrowding. Fishing is not allowed at Wilton Park but the excess roach were released into fisheries at Longbottom's Dam and the Dewsbury Canal to benefit local anglers. We have also worked with National Diploma Fisheries students from Bishop Burton College to carry out a survey of a small farm pond near Fraisthorpe, East Yorkshire. The students were able to put theory into practice and the pond's owner was able to use the results of the netting to inform future management of the fishery.



Walton Angling Club have built and installed floating reed rafts on Workshop Pond, near Castleford. We contributed funding to the project, raised from rod licence income. Fish will use the cover provided by the rafts to shelter from predatory birds.

- Birkdale Fishery, near Terrington, has recently erected otter-proof fencing. The Environment Agency contributed to the cost of this fencing.

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- Spring is a good time to apply loosely-baled barley straw to water to control the growth of algae later in the year. Chemicals produced by rotting straw break down in sunlight to form hydrogen peroxide, and the peroxide then slows down algal growth. Deploying the straw in spring, when water temperatures are low gives it time to start to rot before algae begin to grow. The straw will become active within a month and may be effective for up to six months thereafter. Last year, we helped fund barley straw application at Yeadon Tarn, Leeds. Please contact us via our National Customer Contact Centre if you would like more information (contact details at the end of this newsletter).



**Construction has finished on the major new fish pass at Sprotbrough, River Don. Once opened, the pass will allow fish access to 8 miles of river upstream of Sprotbrough and at least 3.5 miles of the River Dearne. Coarse fish will be able to reach spawning grounds which have, until now, been inaccessible. The project is a partnership between the Environment Agency, the Canal and Rivers Trust and LaFarge.**

## Yorkshire's rivers



**December 2013 marked the final year of our current barbel stocking programme for the River Aire and the start of six years of introductions to the River Dearne. We released 3,000 barbel, bred at our fish farm, into each river. We target our fish stocking activity using data from our surveys and information provided by anglers to identify where there are problems with poor breeding and survival. We have also stocked 1,000 barbel and 1,000 chub into the River Rye at Butterwick, 1,000 barbel into the River Derwent at Norton Ings, 1,000 barbel into the River Swale at Morton Bridge and 500 dace into the River Wiske at Northallerton.**



**Working with Kilnhurst & District Angling Association, the Don Fisheries Consultative Association and Tata Steel, we have improved access for anglers to the River Don at Kilnhurst. New angling platforms have been built and a programme of Japanese knotweed control is ongoing.**

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- We have supported the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's river restoration work on Eastburn Beck, Driffield, and the River Went, South Yorkshire, as well as the East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust restoration of West Beck. We are also supporting the East Yorkshire Rivers Trusts work to reduce silt input to the River Derwent. The improved habitats will benefit the rivers' fisheries.
- Seventeen male and 15 female salmon have been taken for stripping of their ova and milt. The eggs will be hatched at the Kielder Salmon Centre and the resulting fry stocked into the Esk in 2014. Twenty-five male and 25 female sea trout were also taken, half the progeny of the sea trout will be stocked into Saltburn Beck as part of a restoration stocking programme following a major pollution incident in 2012. The remaining sea trout fry will be stocked into the River Esk in 2014.
- Fish populations in the River Went will benefit from a habitat improvement project being carried out by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, which we are supporting. Woody debris and coir rolls are being used to provide varying flows and cover for fish in straightened sections of river.
- We have worked with Hirst Mill Weir Ltd to commission a detailed design for a fish pass at their weir on the River Aire. We are also working with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust to design fish passage and habitat improvements for the River Dearne.

## Enforcement

- From April through to the end of December, our Fisheries Enforcement Officers questioned 7,241 anglers and reported 559 for various fishing offences.

## Biosecurity



**Fisheries Technical Specialist Neil Trudgill holds an 8lb Cambridgeshire [zander](#). We have received reports of zander being caught from canals in Yorkshire. If you catch a zander from a water where they are not ordinarily resident, please report it to [Gareth Davies](#), one of our National experts investigating the impacts and control of non-native fish species. Zander is an introduced non-native species that has the potential to upset the natural balance within our fisheries, for example, through increased predation of native species. This can reduce the food available for native predators such as pike and perch. We only consent zander introductions within catchments already known to contain this species and where the introduction will not increase the existing risk within the catchment.**

For more information or paper copies please contact:

National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
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S60 1BY

03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 8am to 8pm)  
[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyYNE and fisheries officer @PeteTurnerEA

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